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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4022
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7934
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 2521
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 8477
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 4416
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 3038
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 005358

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: SITREP 1: BHUTTO KILLED BY RALLY BOMB BLAST

REF: KARACHI 728

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) At about 1800 hours (local) December 27, Benazir Bhutto suffered fatal injuries while departing a campaign rally outside of Rawalpindi. Initial reports from the scene stated a suicide bomber, carrying four kilos of explosives, approached Bhutto's vehicle as she was getting in to depart. Bhutto was rushed to Rawalpindi General Hospital, where she was declared dead within minutes after arrival, possibly while in surgery. As many as 20 other PPP supporters were killed and 42 injured.

12. (C) Comment: It is unclear how the public, especially PPP supporters, will react, but there are early reports of sporadic street violence in Lahore and Rawalpindi, cars being burned and posters torn down. Embassy and Consulates will hold immediate EAC meetings at 2000 hours (local). The British High Commission has decided to close its Karachi mission tomorrow (December 28). End comment.

PATTERSON